



NEWS RELEASE

**FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICE
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FMCS Calls Meeting Of American Crystal Sugar and BCTGM Negotiators

MINNEAPOLIS, MN— The U.S. Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS) announced today that negotiators for American Crystal Sugar Company and locals of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Union (BCTGM) have been called to the bargaining table for discussions aimed at resolving an ongoing lockout by the company affecting some 1,300 workers in North Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa.

The private discussions will be held on October 24, 2011 under the auspices of the FMCS at an undisclosed time and location.

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The Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, created in 1947, is an independent U.S. government agency whose mission is to preserve and promote labor-management peace and cooperation. Headquartered in Washington, DC, with 10 district offices and 67 field offices, the agency provides mediation and conflict resolution services to industry, government agencies and communities.